

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01

CEA-02 IO-14 NIC-01 DRC-01 /155 W
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R 091533Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2634

INFO USCINCSO

AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

UNCLAS BOGOTA 4016

USCINCSO FOR J-2

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR CO CU

SUBJ: PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT-ELECT ADDRESS CUBA QUESTION

1. IN AN INTERVIEW HE GRANTED TO VISITING US JOURNALISTS ON MAY 8, PRESIDENT PASTRANA SAID THAT US ACTIONS HAVE MODIFIED THE OAS SANCTIONS ON CUBA.

2. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION AS TO WHY COLOMBIA HAS CHANGED ITS POSITION ON CUBA IN THE PAST YEAR, PASTRANA WAS QUOTED AS SAYING, "WE BELIEVE THAT THE TRIPARTITE ARRANGEMENT SPONSORED BY THE UNITED STATES FOR THE SALE OF VEHICLES BY ARGENTINA TO CUBA IMPLIES A VIRTUAL MODIFICATION OF THE EXISTING SANCTIONS. RATHER THAN MODIFY THAT SITUATION BY THE BACK DOOR, IT IS BETTER TO REACH JURIDICAL SOLUTIONS WITHIN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM AND HAVE THE RESPECTIVE ORGAN OF CONSULTATION STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF RAISING THE SANCTIONS. WE HAVE ASKED, AND FOR THAT REASON I CAN SAY WE HAVE NOT CHANGED OUR POSITION, THAT THE JURIDICAL PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY THE SYSTEM BE USED TO STUDY THE MODIFI-
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CATION OF EXISTING SANCTIONS."

2. ON MAY 9 THE SAME GROUP INTERVIEWED PRESIDENT-ELECT ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSEN, WHO SUPPORTED THE COLOMBIAN INITIATIVE TO REACH A JURIDICAL SOLUTION. LOPEZ REFUSED TO SPECULATE ON THE ATTITUDE HE WILL ADOPT TOWARD CUBA AFTER HE TAKES OFFICE, ESPECIALLY, HE SAID, SINCE HE DID NOT KNOW IF THE PASTRANA ADMINISTRATION WOULD TAKE ANY INITIATIVES. HE SAID HE WOULD EVALUATE THE QUESTION AFTER HE TOOK OFFICE.

VAKY

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